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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/853,976	05/10/2001	Anna M. Zara	10007988	8110

7590 04/08/2003

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

ZEENDER, FLORIAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3627

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/853,976

Applicant(s)

ZARA ET AL.

Examiner

F. Ryan Zeender

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10, 13-19, and 21-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Groat et al. '884.

Groat et al. '884 disclose or inherently teach all of the limitations of the claims except the specific teaching of the asset record being generated "when" an order for components are ordered.

It would have been an obvious design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to generate the asset record when an order for components of the asset are ordered, as the time of the order marks the beginning of component movement through the supply chain and thus a logical time to make a record of the asset.

Re claims 2-5, 19, and 23-26: Generating purchase orders for components using various types of templates (i.e., EXCEL spreadsheets) and associating the order with an underlying asset record is well known in the art of business supply management. Re claims 4-5: reading and storing information regarding the component(s) is common business practice to record specifications and warranty information (See "pump" example; Groat et al., paragraphs 35-44).

Re claims 6 and 27: it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to review the components received to ensure that the components are sufficient for the asset in order that the asset performs properly.

Re claims 7-8, and 28-29: it is obvious that all components are necessary in order for the asset to perform properly.

Re claims 10, 21, and 31: ID "stickers" are well known in the art of bar code IDs for sticking to assets.

Re claims 15-19, and 21: Groat et al. teaches various databases 100, 124, 128 connected; and further teaches a network (See paragraphs 28-32).

Re claim 22: it is well known in the art of software to store instructions on a computer readable medium.

Claims 12, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Groat et al. '884 in view of DeWolf et al. '626.

Groat et al. '884 lack the specific teaching of updating the state of the asset.

De Wolf et al. teach a similar asset management system whereby the status of the asset is continuously updated. For example, in paragraph [0038], the ownership of the asset is updated. The asset is "deployable" in that the seller sets the ownership of the asset to the buyer.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Groat et al. to include a means for updating the state of the asset to

"deployable", in view of DeWolf et al., in order for the manufacturer to know when the asset is complete and ready to move to the next place in the supply chain.

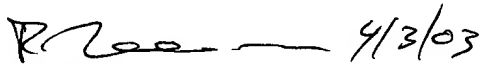
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Ryan Zeender whose telephone number is (703) 308-8351. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bob Olszewski can be reached on (703) 308-5183. The receptionist's phone number for the Technology center is (703) 308-1113 and the customer service number is (703) 872-9325.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for before Final communications and (703) 872-9327 for after Final communications.


F. Zeender
Patent Examiner, A.U. 3627
April 3, 2003